



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 July 1967



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LATE ITEM

Congo
(As of 5:15 AM EDT)

A Red Cross plane has landed at Kisangani (Stanleyville). Initial reports from it tend to confirm that the mercenaries, presumably with at least some of their European and American hostages, have departed from the airport area. There appears to be some fighting elsewhere in the city, however, raising the possibility that revenge-seeking Congolese troops may get out of control and molest the remaining Europeans.

DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

There is a bit of good news at hand about the road watch teams in Laos and North Vietnam. One of the chief problems in this effort has always been that of getting their information out quickly and accurately to those who can use it effectively. This problem is now being licked.

2. Nigeria

The military stalemate continues, amid signs that failure to achieve a quick breakthrough may be telling on the morale of Gowon's federal forces.

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3. Middle East

The radical and moderate Arab states are still divided over whether to move toward a settlement with Israel. Algeria and Syria, the fire-eaters, are opposing Nasir's plan to call an Arab summit meeting, pointing out that King Husayn and other moderates might have a majority. Nasir will probably back off from the scheme.

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The economic chaos caused by the war, along with the problem of caring for refugees and war prisoners, has heightened chances for serious epidemics in the area. Cholera is the most immediate threat, with widespread outbreaks likely this month. Malaria has already reached epidemic proportions in Iran and Iraq.

4. Hong Kong

The British, after using troops for the first time against local agitators yesterday, appear determined to rout out Communist leaders operating from leftist controlled buildings.

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5. Burma

Rangoon continues quietly but firmly to resist pressure from Peking over the recent anti-Chinese outbreaks. A note handed the Chinese on Tuesday flatly rejected charges that the incidents were government instigated.

The uproar with China has, incidentally, boosted Ne Win's stock sky high at home, and diverted popular attention from the country's economic problems. Whether the government will jump at this chance to make some basic economic policy changes, however, is problematical.

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6. Communist China

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7. Soviet Union

The Soviets are playing a delaying game on anti-ballistic missile talks, but keeping the lines open.

Just the other day in Geneva, a Soviet official talking to Senator Gore urged that the Disarmament Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee withhold any early report which might result in further pressure on the Administration to begin deployment of anti-ballistic missiles.

The official told the Senator that while the Soviets had been impressed with Secretary McNamara's arguments, Kremlin military leaders needed a little more time to think them over. When the Senator noted he was under pressure to publish a report within perhaps two weeks, the Soviet spokesman responded that a further delay would be helpful.

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